O

O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP

400 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, California 90071-2899

TELEPHONE (213) 430-6000
FACSIMILE (213) 430-6407

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FAX NUMBER:
(703) 746-5484

TELEPHONE NUMBER:
(703) 305-0750

FROM:
Peter C. Hsueh

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MESSAGE

Re: 09/513,015

Confidential

Per our telephone conversation, enclosed for your review the draft Request / Agenda for the telephonic interview.

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09/513,015 (843161-197)

REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

Based on the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner conduct a telephonic interview with the undersigned counsel.

The Examiner has rejected all of the claims (i.e., Claims 1-8 and 14-25) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narendran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,191) in view of Anderson et al. ("SWE: Toward a Scalable WWW Server on Multi-Computers"). This is a new ground of rejection.

Narendran is directed to a Round Robin DNS (or switch) 12, first and second redirection servers 14-1, 14-2, and a plurality of document servers S1, S2, S3, ..., SN. A client connection is initially made between a client needing a document from one of the document servers S1, S2, S3, ..., SN and the DNS 12. The DNS 12 then switch the client connection to one of the first and the second redirection servers 14-1, 14-2. The switch to redirection server 14-1 or 14-2 then directs the client connection to the one document server S1, S2, S3, ..., SN having the document needed by the client.

By contrast, the present invention is directed to a switch that connect a client (e.g., DTU or 800, 801, ...) to a plurality of client servers (e.g., 824, 825, 826, 827, and 828). The client servers provide client services to the client via a session. The session is hosted by one of the client servers (and associated with a token). In operation, the client 800 initially makes a client connection with a first client server (e.g., 824) for a session (or a client service). The first client server 824 then determines a second client server (e.g., 824, 825, ...) having (or hosting) the session. The first client server (e.g., 824) then redirects the client to the second client server (e.g., 824, 825, ...). Thus, one distinction between the present invention and Narendran is that the present invention provides a plurality of servers in a grouped server environment that are self-organizing, with no master component, and, hence, no single point of failure. By contrast, Narendran still requires a master component or components, i.e., the first and second redirection servers 14-1, 14-2, to provide the redirection of the documents servers.

In addition, the redirection servers 14-1, 14-2 of Narendran are only directed to redirection of the connection from the client to the document servers S1, S2, S3, ..., SN. The redirection servers 14-1, 14-2 do not provided the actually services (i.e., the document) requested by the client. The client servers of the present invention and

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defined claims (e.g., claim 14), by contrast, not only provide the redirection services to the client but also provide the actually client services requested by the client (i.e., the DTU).

A further distinction between the present invention and Narendran is that the requested service in Narendran is the provision of a document, whereas, in the present invention (e.g., claim 16), the client server provides actually client functions (e.g., state functions) that have been removed from the thin client (e.g., the DTU).

The Applicants are not sure of relevance of the Andresen reference. However, the Applicants would like to note that the Andresen reference is directed to a conventional web server. The service model of a thin client session server of the present invention and a web server are completely different. Web services and connections using a typical web server are short, transaction-oriented interactions, with no updating of state on the server. By contrast, the aim of the present invention is to provide a persistent session to a client that is highly available. That is, the thin client session of the present invention persists over a long time (e.g., claim 22), and the session server contains the entire state of the user's session. In addition, the DTU (or thin client) of the present invention is a stateless device having no state stored in the client. Thus, unlike the service mode proposed in Andresen, a user on a client of the present invention can power-off the client, and the user can reconnect to the session of the present invention (on the same or another client and hosted by the same or another server in the failover group) and pick up exactly where the user left off, down to the position of the cursor on the screen.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 19, 2004   Peter C. Hsueh
                                      Attorney for Applicants
                                      Registration No. 45,574

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